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To
Instructional Quality Commission,
Department of Education

SUB : Suggested change requested by the South Asia Faculty Group on page 265, lines 703-704 seeking the name Hinduism to be changed to ‘religion of ancient India.’

I have been following the social sciences Framework refinement process since last year and am extremely concerned with the changes in the new draft that was published on March 14th. While reading the draft, I noticed that the South Asian Faculty Group has suggested that a change be made regarding the name of the religion of those that lived in ancient in India.

The changes suggested are as mentioned below:

Current text: “Building on their previous study of Hinduism in 6th grade, students study the question: How did Hinduism change over time?”

Suggested change: “Building on their previous study of Hinduism in 6th grade, students study the question: How did the religion of ancient India change over time?”

I am really unclear as to why the name of one of the major religions of the world, Hinduism, needs to be removed from the book and changed with something as vague as “religion of ancient India.”

Just as a child is given a name by its parents, so also a group of people are named by those outside that group. Let me explain this: Sindhu is a river that flowed in ancient India and is now called the river Indus. It is said that the Persians and the ancient Greeks mispronounced the word Sindhu as Indos or Indus and gave the people that lived beyond the river Sindhu the name Indu or Hindu. This fact has been extensively documented by Persian and Greek writers who travelled to ancient India.

A few examples of ancient books about India written by those that travelled to India are given below:

1. In the book *History of India, Volume 9*, by Romesh Chunder Dutt, Vincent Arthur Smith, Stanley Lane-Poole, Sir Henry Miers Elliot, Sir William Wilson Hunter, and Sir Alfred Comyn Lyall, there is a chapter (Chapter 4) describing Al-Biruni, the famous Arabic scholar’s, description about the Hindu idea of God. Al-Biruni travelled to India in 1030 AD, which, I am sure you will agree is pretty ancient. If Al-Biruni called the people that lived beyond the river Indus as Hindu, how can you now remove all traces of this well-known religion?

I have the link of the book here for your perusal. This link will take you directly to chapter 4 of the 9th volume of the book History of India.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=GwhXAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA154&lpg=PA154&dq=Al-Biruni%E2%80%99s+Arabic+Account+of+the+Hindu+Religion&source=bl&ots=IkHUxYf4DG&sig=QwP6KrrZ5dBHlyLKR9XjoCKRcyU&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi8maWi3djLAhUG5GMKHVY6CQgQ6AEINTAF#v=onepage&q&f=false>

2. Vincent A. Smith, the British Indologist has discussed Hiuen Tsang, the famous Chinese traveller's travels to Hindu India in his book, *The Early History of India*. Hiuen Tsang travelled to India in 624 AD and mentions how the Hindus lived.

I have the link of the book here for your perusal.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=8XXGhAL1WKcC&pg=PA359&dq=hiuen+tsang+travel+to+india&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwitoKTt7tjLAhVD1GMKHcEXB-QQ6AEIYTAI#v=onepage&q=hiuen%20tsang%20travels%20to%20india&f=false>

3. In the book *Ancient India*, the author Ramesh Chandra Majumdar describes the lives of the Hindus by the river Sindhu as written by various Greek historians during the reign of Alexander the Great.

I have the link of the book here for your perusal.

https://books.google.com/books?id=XNxiN5tzKOGC&pg=PA119&dq=greek+india&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjRq-Ss8tjLAhUI_mMKHf-vCxYQ6AEIUjAH#v=onepage&q=hindu&f=false

After reading the name of the country India and the religion Hindu mentioned over and over again by known historians, you will, I am sure, decide not to erase the name of the religion, Hinduism from the textbooks. If you do accept the changes asked by the South Asian Faculty Group, you will be committing a grave mistake. You will be hurting the children of California, by making them wrongly understand that the religion Hinduism did not exist. The rest of the world will laugh at the children that have studied in Californian Public schools, because across the world (including states other than California in the U.S) people know of the religion Hinduism by this very name. You will also be hurting the Hindu children that study in the Californian public schools by making them objects of ridicule as their ignorant friends will bully them saying that they are not Hindus.

I do hope that you consider everything and make the right decision.

Yours Sincerely,

Jyelagalawadi

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